



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

September 11, 2006

Fact Sheet

Selected Accomplishments

About ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was created to protect national security and uphold public safety by targeting the people, money and materials that support terrorists and criminal activities. Prior to 9/11, immigration and customs authorities were not widely recognized or used as an effective counter-terrorism tool in the United States. Since its creation, ICE has created a host of new systems to better address national security threats and detect potential terrorist activities in the U.S.

Within ICE, a broad range of divisions, units and programs are in place to use every possible resource at hand, including the cooperation of federal, state and local agencies. These programs allow ICE to achieve its mission and as a result, have contributed to ICE's tremendous success.

Numerous individuals with terrorist connections have been removed from the United States before they could have inflicted harm against the homeland. At the same time, ICE has broken previous records in terms of detaining and removing immigrants illegally entering our country. ICE is responsible for policing, securing and ensuring a safe environment in which federal agencies can conduct their business.

ICE agents, units and divisions work both independently and together, within the organization and in conjunction with other agencies, to keep the United States safe from terrorist attacks and to bring integrity to our immigration system. The agency has already enjoyed tremendous success to date and is committed to building upon this strong foundation.

Targeting Terrorists

In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, ICE developed and enhanced several programs to create a network for discovering potential terrorists. This network is bringing greater scrutiny to potential threats. The **Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU)** is primarily charged with overseeing, coordinating and enhancing ICE's participation on the nation's **Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTFs)**. ICE is currently the second-largest federal

contributor of personnel to the JTTFs, second only to the FBI. These agents are often the lead investigators for any JTTF case where the primary charge is a violation of immigration or customs law.

The Counter Terrorism Unit also has oversight over ICE personnel assigned to Customs and Border Protection's National Targeting Center, which is a 24/7 operational center that brings together information and personnel from numerous government agencies to detect and respond to persons arriving at U.S. ports of entry who are matches or potential matches on national terrorist watch lists.

The **National Security Integration Center (NSIC)** serves as the primary mechanism for ICE to "operationalize" intelligence and threat reporting for ICE field offices. The NSIC is also responsible for developing and coordinating joint programs with other law enforcement agencies and the intelligence community that appropriately utilize ICE's authorities to support the government's war on terror. One critical component of the NSIC is the Threat Analysis Section. This section applies real-time threat information to previously compartmentalized immigration, national security, and public safety databases to develop actionable leads for field investigation. This process allows ICE agents to look proactively for potential national security threats operating "under the radar."

The **Compliance Enforcement Unit (CEU)** focuses on preventing criminals and terrorists from exploiting the nation's immigration system by developing cases for investigation from computerized systems that include the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), the National Security Entry/Exit Registration System (NSEERS), and the United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology (US-VISIT) System. Prior to 9/11, none of these systems were in place to help authorities accurately monitor the immigration status of foreign students and other visitors to this country. Today, these new systems allow the Compliance Enforcement Unit to access information on millions of foreign students, tourists, and temporary workers present in the United States at any given time and focus investigative resources on those that pose the greatest threat to national security. The work of the CEU demonstrates how ICE effectively enforces immigration laws in the national security context. The pursuit of these visa violators provides significant support to the federal government's "disrupt and deter" anti-terror strategy.

***Result:** If today's security measures had been in place before 9/11, all 19 conspirators would have received greater scrutiny through the network of ICE programs.*

Worksite Enforcement

In addition to traditional worksite enforcement, ICE places a priority on targeting illegal workers who have gained access to critical infrastructure worksites including nuclear and chemical plants, military installations, airports and seaports.

***Result:** In FY04, ICE initiated 460 investigations; there were 79 indictments and 87 convictions. These numbers increased in FY05 to 502 investigations, 186 indictments and 160 convictions, and in FY06 (as of August 22) there were 1,097 investigations, 184 indictments and 177 convictions.*

Identity and Benefit Fraud

ICE created the Identity and Benefit Fraud Unit in September 2003 to work closely with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to identify fraudulent immigration benefit applications and target violators. To strengthen this effort, ICE established ICE-led Document and Benefit Fraud Task Forces in Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York, Newark, Philadelphia, St. Paul and Washington, D.C. The goal of these task forces is to target and dismantle the criminal organizations that threaten national security and public safety, and address the vulnerabilities that currently exist in the immigration process.

***Result:** In FY05, ICE initiated 3,512 investigations, executed 1,430 arrests, 1,077 indictments and 1,151 convictions. In FY06 (through July), ICE initiated 2,902 investigations, executed 1,064 arrests, 732 indictments and 771 convictions.*

Arms and Strategic Technology Investigations

ICE is responsible for investigating the illegal export of U.S. munitions and sensitive technology. ICE is also reaching out to U.S. manufacturers of arms and sensitive technology to educate them about export laws and to solicit their assistance in preventing illegal foreign acquisition of their products.

***Result:** ASTI initiated 4,781 cases since inception (March 1, 2003–July 31, 2006) with 429 arrests, 368 indictments and 309 convictions.*

Detention and Removal

ICE's Detention and Removal Operations is tasked with ensuring that every alien who has been ordered removed departs the United States as quickly as possible.

As part of its **Secure Border Initiative**, the Department of Homeland Security continues to expand its **Expedited Removal** efforts. It streamlines the processing and removal of illegal aliens defined as "other than Mexicans" (OTMs). The policy permits the expedited removal of aliens apprehended within 100 miles of the border and within 14 days of entry.

***Result:** The number of Expedited Removals with ICE detention was 31,839 in FY05 and is already 42,183 in FY06 (through August 20).*

ICE employs its **National Fugitive Operations Program** to reduce the number of fugitive aliens in the United States. These individuals have been ordered removed by a federal immigration judge, but have failed to comply. Currently 17 teams are active with an additional 27 to come online by December 2005. The Department of Homeland Security and ICE are expanding this program to 100 teams.

***Result:** Through the Fugitive Operations Program 11,025 aliens were removed in FY05, up from 4,527 in FY02. In FY06 (through August 23) 9,401 aliens were removed through this program.*

Human Smuggling and Trafficking

ICE is using new approaches to better combat criminal organizations that smuggle and traffic humans across our borders. Prior to ICE, there was no systematic effort by U.S. law enforcement to target the illegal profits of these organizations, which generate an estimated \$10 billion annually. For the first time, ICE is merging financial expertise of the former U.S. Customs Service with immigration expertise of the former Immigration and Naturalization Service to better combat these organizations.

Result: In FY05, ICE efforts resulted in 3,125 human smuggling and trafficking investigations, 2,483 arrests, 1,442 indictments and 1,283 convictions. In FY06 (through July 31), ICE efforts initiated 2,330 human smuggling and trafficking investigations, 2,272 arrests, 1,008 indictments and 1,010 convictions. In FY05, ICE combined efforts in human smuggling and trafficking-related seizures totalled \$21,777,895, and in FY06 (through July 31) in \$13,006,961.

ICE International Investigative Efforts

ICE has more than 50 offices around the globe that work closely with foreign governments to target human smuggling and trafficking organizations overseas. By targeting these criminal organizations at their source, ICE can help prevent them from moving illegal aliens across our borders.

Law Enforcement Support Center

ICE administers the Law Enforcement Support Center (LESC), which is a national, single-point-of-contact, law enforcement center that utilizes extensive databases to provide local, state and federal law enforcement agencies with instant information on aliens suspected, arrested or convicted of criminal activity.

Result: In FY06 (through August 15), the LESL responded to 572,959 inquiries from law enforcement officials. The previous year, FY05, the LESL responded to 676,502 inquiries, while in FY00 (prior to 9/11) it responded to 168,895 inquiries and in FY02 (prior to the creation of ICE) it responded to 426,895 inquiries.

Financial Investigations

Employing its customs and immigration expertise, ICE aggressively pursues the financial components that criminal organizations use to earn, move and store their illicit funding. These criminal organizations earn their illegal profits through alien, drug or weapons smuggling.

Result: In FY04 and FY05, ICE financial investigations have led to 2,961 arrests, 2,109 indictments, 1,852 convictions and the seizure of \$295,245,845 worth of cash and monetary instruments. In FY06 to date, ICE financial investigations have led to 1,079 arrests, 678 indictments, 740 convictions and the seizure of \$109,982,120 worth of cash and monetary instruments.

Cornerstone

ICE agents have conducted more than 4,000 Cornerstone and financial crimes presentations to more than 57,000 individuals from private sector and law enforcement communities around the world. This aggressive program has fostered outstanding partnerships and has generated more than 250 ICE criminal investigations resulting in the seizure of more than \$1.3 million in currency and negotiable instruments, vehicles and merchandise.

Federal Protective Service

ICE's Federal Protective Service provides law enforcement and security services to more than 8,800 federal buildings that receive nearly one million visitors and tenants daily.

***Result:** In FY04, FPS officers were responsible for 4,426 arrests and prevented nearly 555,000 prohibited items from entering buildings. In FY05, FPS officers were responsible for 6,485 arrests and citations and prevented nearly 838,546 prohibited items from entering buildings. In FY06 (through July), FPS officers were responsible for 5,299 arrests and citations and prevented nearly 729,754 items from entering buildings.*

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.